

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

FILED

MAY 28 2020

IN RE: REQUIREMENT TO WEAR)
FACE COVERINGS WHEN IN THE)
FEDERAL COURTHOUSES IN THE)
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA)

CARMELITA REEDER SWINN, CLERK
U.S. DIST. COURT, WESTERN DIST. OKLA.
BY: MS, DEPUTY

G.O. 20-15

ORDER

Since the Court issued G.O. 20-7 on March 16, 2020 and G.O. 20-11 on April 4, 2020, the situation in the State of Oklahoma has continued to evolve. As of May 26, 2020, the Oklahoma State Department of Health has identified 6,137 positive cases of COVID-19 and 318 deaths related to the disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings to slow the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, to further the health and safety of Court personnel, counsel, litigants, vendors, contractors, and the general public, and to facilitate a partial return to more substantial on-site operations, it is ordered that effective immediately:

Court employees shall wear face coverings (a mask or similar covering that covers the nose and mouth) at all times when in public and shared areas of the courthouses, as well as in personal workspace and meeting rooms when unable to maintain appropriate social distancing from others. Chambers staff shall

likewise wear face coverings at all times when in public and shared areas of the courthouses and when outside of chambers workspace.

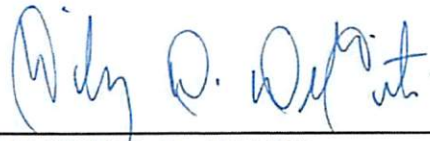
During in-person proceedings in courtrooms, the wearing of face coverings by judges, chambers staff, and court reporters will be at the discretion of the presiding judge based on conditions in his or her courtroom. Counsel, parties, witnesses, other participants in courtroom proceedings, and observers in the gallery, shall wear face coverings, except when addressing the Court or providing testimony, unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge.

All visitors to the courthouses, including without limitation attorneys and their staff, vendors, contractors, and other members of the public, are required to wear face coverings at all times while in the courthouses, including courtrooms, subject to the discretion of particular presiding judges, and except as directed by Court security personnel for identification or other security purposes. Children two years of age or younger are relieved of this requirement. Persons without an appropriate face covering will be provided a mask upon entering the courthouses.

Deputy United States Marshals and Court Security Officers shall wear face coverings at all times when in public and shared areas of the courthouses, consistent with the performance of their official duties, and as directed by the United States Marshal or other supervising personnel.

This General Order shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

ENTERED for the Court this 28th day of May, 2020.

Handwritten signature of Timothy D. DeGiusti in blue ink.

TIMOTHY D. DeGIUSTI
Chief United States District Judge